(c) and (d) Deceleration in the capital flows and a widening trade deficit in 2008-09 have resulted in a steady depreciation of the rupee. With the deepening of the global financial crisis in September, 2008, there has been further contraction in the capital flows and a decline in the exports. All these factors have resulted in decline in value of Rupee from Rs. 40.02 in April, 2008 to Rs. 48.63 per US dollar in December, 2008. The exchange rate was Rs. 48.71 per US dollar during the second week of February, 2009.

The exchange rate policy is guided by the broad principles of careful monitoring and management of exchange rates with flexibility, without a fixed or a pre-announced target or a band, while allowing the underlying demand and supply conditions to determine the exchange rate movements over a period in an orderly manner. Subject to this predominant objective, RBI intervenes in the foreign exchange market to reduce excess volatility prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, maintaining adequate level of reserves, and developing an orderly foreign exchange market.

Extradition treaty with Nepal

*145. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have decided to modify the existing extradition treaty that would allow the two countries to handover criminals of third country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nexus between trans-border criminals is increasing and in the absence of extradition treaty, criminals are freely enjoying; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) An extradition treaty, concluded on October 2, 1953, is currently in force between India and Nepal. The text of a new extradition treaty has been finalised between the two Governments. The new extradition treaty was initiated in January, 2005 and awaits formal signatures. Under the provisions of the new treaty, it is possible to extradite third country nationals for extraditable offences as described in the treaty.

Debt relief to farmers

*149. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) out of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore given as debt relief to the farmers during the financial year 2008-09, how many farmers have taken advantage of loan waiver scheme indicating the total amount of loan reimbursed/outstanding against them, State-wise, till date;

(b) whether loan taken by farmers from the private lenders has also been waived off; and